

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 28, 2005. Claims 1 to 49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 50 to 61 are pending in the application, of which six are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 8, 10 to 16, 18, 19, 21, 22 and 24 to 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Published Appln. No. 2004/0223177 (Takagi). Claims 4, 9, 17, 20 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Takagi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,707,574 (Freeman). Claims 28 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. As Claims 1 to 49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, Applicants submit that these rejections are now moot.

The present invention concerns the operation of an information processing apparatus coupled to a printer. The information processing apparatus first acquires an attribute list from the printer, and then acquires an attribute value for a desired one of the listed attributes from the printer. An information processing apparatus in accordance with the present invention can minimize the total processing time as compared with the processing in which the attribute value(s) for all the listed attributes are acquired from the beginning.

Newly added Claim 50 is directed to an information processing apparatus capable of communicating with a printer. The information processing apparatus comprises a first acquiring unit adapted to acquire from the printer an attribute list including at least one attribute supported by the printer; a second acquiring unit adapted to refer to the

attribute list acquired by said first acquiring unit and acquire from the printer an attribute value for a desired one of the at least one attribute; a control unit adapted to control a setting screen to reflect the attribute value acquired by said second acquiring unit; and a job output unit adapted to generate a print job based on a setting entered via the setting screen that has reflected the attribute value and output the generated print job to the printer, wherein the at least one attribute includes a start mode attribute and the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a start time condition.

In contrast, Takagi shows a remote terminal that changes the function or the operation screen of a digital multifunctional device via a network. In addition, the terminal refers to or changes the processing in the multifunctional device. In operation, when a password is entered on a screen in the host computer (See Fig. 11 of Takagi), a job list can be displayed in the host computer (See Fig. 12 of Takagi). A screen for editing the function of the multifunctional device is displayed in the host computer (Se Figs. 20-32 of Takagi).

Furthermore, Freeman shows determining job attributes (e.g., the number of pages, the number of copies, the amount of memory and toner) from a print job and storing the job attributes with the print job.

However, neither Takagi nor Freeman, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest at least the feature of first acquiring an attribute list from the printer, and then acquiring an attribute value for a desired one of the listed attributes from the printer. Furthermore, neither Takagi nor Freeman disclose or suggest reflecting the acquired attribute value in a setting screen, and generating a print job based on a setting entered via the setting screen that has reflected the attribute value and outputting the generated print job to the printer.

In light of the deficiencies of Takagi and Freeman as discussed above, Applicants submit that new independent Claim 50 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Independent Claims 54 and 58 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, having features in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 50. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 54 and 58 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claim 52 is directed to a printer capable of communicating with an information processing apparatus. The printer comprises a first output unit adapted to output an attribute list including at least one attribute supported by said printer to the information processing apparatus, so as to allow the information processing apparatus to refer to the attribute list and provide a request for an attribute value for a desired one of the at least one attribute; a second output unit adapted to output the attribute value for the desired attribute to the information processing apparatus in response to the request provided by the information processing apparatus, so as to allow the information processing apparatus to control a setting screen to reflect the attribute value, generate a print job based on a setting entered via the setting screen that has reflected the attribute value and output the generated print job to said printer; and a reception unit adapted to receive the print job from the information processing apparatus, wherein the at least one attribute includes a start mode attribute and the attribute value of the start mode attribute includes a start time condition.

Applicants submit that the discussion from above in support of the allowability of Claim 50 applies to Claim 52 as well. Accordingly, Applicants submit Claim 52 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Independent Claims 56 and 60 are directed to a method and a computer-readable medium, respectively, having features in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 52. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 56 and 60 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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